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May 4, 1971

TO:

System Users

FROM:

Simon O'Shea

SUBJECT:

Special Interest Document #15

Dr. T. D. Sterling's letter to the editor of the Archives of Environmental Health may be of interest.

Commenting on the Hammond and Auerbach paper "Effects of Cigarette Smoking on Dogs" (Acc. Nos. 26666, 26667), Sterling states that the study "contains a flaw so serious as to vitiate any conclusion drawn from it. This distresses me because this expensive, tedious, yet vital experiment ought to have been designed from the beginning to answer the questions that were asked and not to raise a flock of others."

"The need for providing adequate controls, especially in experiments that involve surgical incision and bypassing of natural functions, is so deeply engrained in biological science that its violation in this important piece of work defies comprehension. Indeed, the consequences of this work will be confusion rather than enlightenment."

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